

Harry Belafonte, on a show for ABC donning their names—"Harry and Lena." She would go on to play herself on The Muppet Show, Sesame Street, and Sanford and Son. In 1981, Lena then received two Grammy awards and a special Tony award for her cast recording of her Broadway show, Lena Horne: The Lady and Her Music. In 1989, she received a Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award.

Amongst her many awards, Ms. Horne was the recipient of the Kennedy Center honor for lifetime contribution to the arts in 1984. She received two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame—for her work in both motion pictures and recording—in addition to a footprint on the International Civil Rights Walk of Fame at the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site. Lena always fought back when opportunities presented themselves.

For example, during World War II, Lena had been slated to perform for segregated troops of U.S. servicemen. She was appalled to find that African American servicemen had been seated behind German prisoners of war, and refused to partake unless she could sing before an integrated group. As a compromise, Lena left the stage and sang directly in front of her African American counterparts, with the German prisoners of war to her rear.

Lena notably remained committed to bettering lives of the underserved and under-represented for the entirety of her life. An active participant in the movement, Lena met President John F. Kennedy shortly before his assassination, marched in the March on Washington, and ultimately performed and spoke on behalf of the NAACP, SNCC, and National Council of Negro Women. Also notable is the work that she engaged in with Former First Lady, Eleanor Roosevelt to pass anti-lynching laws. Lena was awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP in 1983.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in support of honoring Lena Horne posthumously with a Congressional Gold Medal, for her outstanding contributions to American culture and the Civil Rights Movement. A beautiful person inside-out, Lena willed her talent, intelligence, and fame to fight against discrimination, traversing her career on a road filled with pot holes full of racial bias and degradation. Lena represents the very best of American ideals and signifies the true purpose of the American Dream.

HONORING CAPTAIN JEREMY W. POWELL, TECHNICAL SERGEANT MARK B. CORNETT, TECHNICAL SERGEANT BENJAMIN G. JACOBS, TECHNICAL SERGEANT JAMES J. JUNIPER, STAFF SERGEANT CHRISTOPHER D. RECTOR, HONOREES IN THE PORTRAITS IN COURAGE

HON. CATHY McMORRIS RODGERS

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Captain Jeremy W. Powell, Technical Sergeant Mark B. Cornett, Technical Sergeant Benjamin G. Jacobs, Technical Sergeant James J. Juniper, and Staff Sergeant Christopher D. Rector who were included in the newest volume of the U.S. Air Force's Portraits in Courage.

Portraits in Courage highlight United States Air Force Airmen whose stories exemplify what it means to serve our country. These stories feature Airmen who "remind us that our core values are more than slogans."

On October 8, 2013, Captain Jeremy W. Powell, Staff Sergeant Christopher D. Rector, (then) Staff Sergeant Mark B. Cornett, (then) Staff Sergeant Benjamin G. Jacobs, and Technical Sergeant James J. Juniper were flying a routine mission when they responded to assist the evacuation of wounded coalition's troops. Under heavy fire, Captain Powell and his crew provided cover to the wounded unit. During the firefight, Technical Sergeant Juniper, who was manning the Mi-17 helicopter's M240 machinegun, was seriously wounded. (Then) Staff Sergeant Cornett and (then) Staff Sergeant Jacobs came to the aide of Technical Sergeant Juniper who was bleeding and unconscious on the aircraft's cabin floor.

Despite an extremely hostile environment and continual exposure to enemy fire, the advisors' aircraft remained overhead long enough to provide their wingmen the cover they needed to evacuate critically-wounded Afghans. The crew then retreated into safe airspace and made their way eighty miles to the nearest coalition base. Upon arrival, the crew learned that medical vehicles were unavailable. As such, (then) Staff Sergeant Jacobs and (then) Staff Sergeant Cornett were forced to commandeer a truck to rush Technical Sergeant Juniper to the nearest medical zone.

As a strong supporter of the United States Air Force, I am proud to represent the servicemen and women at Fairchild Air Force Base in Eastern Washington. Not only do these servicemen and women and their families make daily sacrifices to keep our nation safe, but they are integral members of our community.

So today, I rise to recognize Captain Jeremy W. Powell, Technical Sergeant Mark B. Cornett, Technical Sergeant Benjamin G. Jacobs, Technical Sergeant James J. Juniper, and Staff Sergeant Christopher D. Rector upon their inclusion in this year's Portraits in Courage. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation they have so selflessly served.

THE PASSING OF JAMES P. MCINTYRE

HON. JAMES R. LANGEVIN

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. LANGEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember a lifelong Rhode Islander who dedicated his life to his country and to his family. James McIntyre leaves behind eight children, 13 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren, and I have no doubt that his absence will be felt by them every day.

James served this nation in the Korean War, and after leaving the U.S. Army, he went on to become a longtime surveyor for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. He never hesitated to lend a hand to family or friends. He was always eager to tackle a project, earning him a reputation as the resident handyman, and the first one to call when something needed fixing. His generosity of spirit was extended to his friends at the Knights of Columbus, and to all who asked.

I have had the honor of working with James's daughter, Nancy Beattie, for more than 20 years. Nancy is my director of constituent services and one of the kindest, most generous and genuine people that I have ever met. She works tirelessly on behalf of my constituents, and is a living representation of the values that James instilled in his family. My deepest condolences go out to Nancy and to James's loving wife of 61 years, Margaret McIntyre, and I know my colleagues will join me in extending our sympathy to the entire McIntyre family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EVAN H. JENKINS

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mr. JENKINS of West Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on roll call no. 53 due to inclement weather, I was unable to vote on H.R. 623, Social Media Working Group Act. Had I been present, I would have voted Yea.

FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE ACT ANNIVERSARY

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 5, 2015

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, today on February 5, 2015, we celebrate the 22nd anniversary of the Family and Medical Leave Act, a family-friendly workplace policy that has benefited millions of American families. Since its passage in 1993, this landmark law has been used 200 million times by men and women across the nation. These individuals and their families have benefited from up to 12 weeks of unpaid job protected leave to care for a new child, sick family member, or a loved one recovering from a serious health condition.

While we celebrate this anniversary we must also recognize that after more than two decades our nation's family leave policies have not kept pace with changes to America's families and workforce. FMLA provides unpaid leave, which means families must choose between foregoing a paycheck and caring for a loved one. Most families today no longer have a stay-at-home parent to care for a new child, and even before the economic crisis, few could afford to go without pay for any length of time.

We need new policies that show that we truly value America's families. That is why I recently introduced the Federal Employees Paid Parental Leave Act, legislation that provides federal employees with 6 weeks of paid leave following the birth, adoption, or fostering of a child. The Federal government is our nation's largest employer and as such should be leading the way on family-friendly workplace policy. By extending paid parental leave for new parents this bill helps diminish the risk of real economic hardship for the 2 million federal employees following the birth or adoption of a child.

I urge my colleagues to pass legislation that brings our country forward to the 21st Century